# 1991-92 ANNUAL REPORT
# Eastern Slopes Region
# Integrated Resource Plans

INCLUDES:

Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan

EASTERN SLOPES REGION
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 1992

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# 1991-92 ANNUAL REPORT - EASTERN SLOPES REGION INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This annual report summarizes progress on the implementation of completed integrated resource plans (IRPs), specifically Brazeau-Pembina, Rocky North Saskatchewan, Nordegg-Red Deer River, Kananaskis Country and Ghost River, all located within the Eastern Slopes Region, for the period between April 1991 and March 1992. The annual report for the Coal Branch will be included in this package next year. The planning map on the following page shows the location of these plans within the region.

## 2.0 EASTERN SLOPES REGION - AN OVERVIEW

The Eastern Slopes Region is an area of approximately 91 292 square kilometres along the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains.

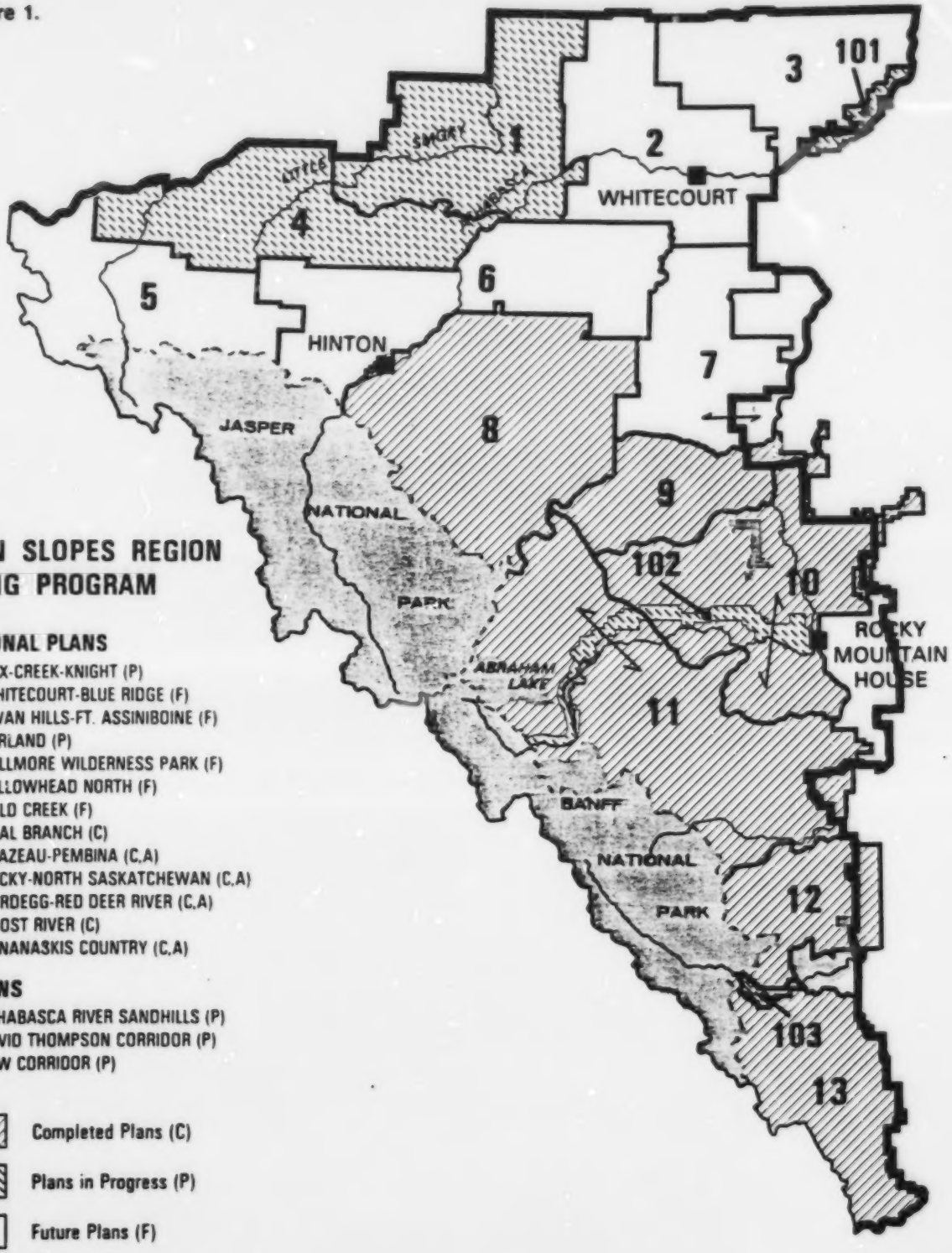
Since 1977, resource management across most of this area has been guided by "A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes" through the development and implementation of subregional and local integrated resource plans. This policy was revised in 1984 and is being further refined. As of March 31 there were six completed and five in progress integrated resource plans.

## 3.0 EASTERN SLOPES REGIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RRMC)

The Eastern Slopes Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) was formed in 1981. Its members are regional directors and forest superintendents from Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, as well as senior managers from other departments such as Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Alberta Energy, Alberta Environment, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

The RRMC meets every month to discuss the management and administration of natural resources on land in the Eastern Slopes Region, of which implementation of integrated resource plans plays a key part. The objective of this committee is to provide a departmental and interdepartmental forum for the communication, coordination and resolution of natural resource issues at the policy, program and operational level. The committee produces this annual report so that Albertans can be kept informed of natural resource management activity related to the implementation of completed IRPs in the region. The committee invites your comments. Please do so by writing or calling the Regional Resource Coordinator whose address and phone number are given on the last page of this report.

Figure 1.




## EASTERN SLOPES REGION PLANNING PROGRAM

### SUB-REGIONAL PLANS

1 FOX-CREEK-KNIGHT (P)
2 WHITECOURT-BLUE RIDGE (F)
3 SWAN HILLS-FT. ASSINIBOINE (F)
4 BERLAND (P)
5 WILLMORE WILDERNESS PARK (F)
6 YELLOWHEAD NORTH (F)
7 COLD CREEK (F)
8 COAL BRANCH (C)
9 BRAZEAU-PEMBINA (C,A)
10 ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN (C,A)
11 NORDEGG-RED DEER RIVER (C,A)
12 GHOST RIVER (C)
13 KANANASKIS COUNTRY (C,A)

### LOCAL PLANS

101 ATHABASCA RIVER SANDHILLS (P)
102 DAVID THOMPSON CORRIDOR (P)
103 BOW CORRIDOR (P)

Completed Plans (C)

Plans in Progress (P)

Future Plans (F)

Non-planning Areas

Completed Plans (C). Plans in Progress (P). Future Plans (F).
5 Year assessment (A)

MARCH 92

## 4.0 HIGHLIGHT REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING AREAS

### 4.1 Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved April 8, 1986)

**1991/92 Activities:**

Watershed:

Erosion hazard maps were completed on RMA B and on RMA C.

Timber:

Justification for retention of reservation of lands for future expansion of Brazeau Reservoir is under review.

Wildlife:

A prescribed burn was conducted on one of the six meadows near the confluence of the Blackstone and Brazeau rivers in May of 1992.

Monitoring continued on Brazeau Flats burn sites. Brush encroachment has been significantly set back by the burning program.

Nesting platforms were not installed due to budget restrictions.

The planned moose hunting season revisions were implemented. The success of this change will require several years to monitor and evaluate.

Watchable Wildlife signage was installed at the Brazeau Reservoir.

Fisheries:

The reclaimed Brazeau borrow pits were stocked with rainbow trout:

Pit # 1 - 1500
Pit # 2 - 1000.

Forage Resource:

The range management plan for RMA A was completed. There were no increases in carrying capacities through range improvement over the last year.

There has been no utilization of the 8 quarters that were transferred from the Green Area to the White Area.

Agricultural Resource/Land Use Administration:

Implementation plan was completed.

Sections 34 & 35-47-8-W5M were removed from the Green Area and put under a White Area designation. S 1/2 34, SW 35-47-8-W5M will remain as vacant land until access is developed and demand warrants its disposition for sale or lease.

Timber was salvaged from N1/2 34-47-8-W5M.

**Anticipated Activities (1992/93) Brazeau/Pembina Sub-Regional IRP:**

Watershed:

Obtain better information about effects of land use and management activities on water quality and quantity in RMA B.

Wildlife:

Additional re-burns will be conducted on the Brazeau River Flats.

A moose survey will be conducted in WMU 332.

Wildlife depredation problems will be resolved as required.

Fisheries:

A Phase II fisheries inventory will be conducted on the Brazeau River and its major tributary streams. The inventory will evaluate habitat and determine species composition and relative abundance.

A detailed contour map will be prepared for the Brazeau Reservoir and Canal, and a fisheries survey will be initiated.

Recreation:

Cultivate the interest of companies and/or other agencies that would be interested in assisting with funding the construction of a group camp facility at Brazeau Reservoir.

Ratify joint agreement with Alberta Transportation and Utilities for the construction of Elk River Recreation Area.

Agricultural Resource/Land Use Administration:

NW & Pt. NE 34, N1/2 & SE 35-47-8-W5M to be made available for sale by public tender in spring of 1993.

Plan Assessment:

A five-year assessment of the plan will be undertaken this year to evaluate whether the plan is current and still providing clear direction on management of resources, or whether it requires a major review and updating. Your comments or other input are welcome. Please contact the Regional Resource Coordinator, whose address and phone number are given at the end of the report.

## 4.2 Ghost River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved June 7, 1988)

### 1991/92 Activities:

Wildlife:

The Harold Creek Road sanctuary was monitored on a regular basis. In 1991/92 a total of six animals were shot within the sanctuary, while in 1989/90 (the year before the sanctuary was established), a total of 22 moose were killed along the same stretch of road.

A search for potential peregrine nesting sites was conducted; however, no birds were located. Reports of peregrines in the western part of the planning area continue to be received on a sporadic basis.

No controlled burns were conducted in the planning area this year.

Fisheries:

A creel survey program was initiated at Stenton Lake with the installation of a survey box at the site.

Margaret Lake was stocked with rainbow trout.

Recreation:

Information services to the public are ongoing. Routine patrols are carried out by Forest Guardian staff on the trail systems.

A volunteer campground host program was started and was extremely successful.

Visitor/interpretive sites have been initiated but have not been completed.

Margaret Lake Trail is 70 percent completed.

Harold Creek Trail is 20 percent completed and work is ongoing.

Plans for Black Rock Trail, upper and lower flood dams were completed.

Monitoring of random camping will continue as budget permits.

Continued to encourage grazing lessees to implement the Use Respect program and allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users were encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

Access:

Preliminary work started on the Access Management Plan (AMP) after the base map was completed for the study area.

Alberta Forest Service staff are now collecting basic data on the condition of trails. Recommendations for use of trails will be made based on data collected. Some user groups have informed the Forest Service as to which trails they use.

Public access onto grazing dispositions in the Water Valley RMA has been discussed with lessees during their periodic evaluations and renewal applications.

Timber:

Green Area boundary change occurred in December 1991.

No Resource Management Operational Plans were reviewed with the grazing lessee due to other priorities.

No reviews of operational plans were conducted in 1991/92 with lessees.

PLPD funding was not available for the Bow/Crow Forest in 1991/92, as priority was given to the northern forests.

Assessment of the Devil's Head Allotment burn indicated it was very successful and a re-burn in the spring of 1992 was not necessary.

There is potential for a prescribed burn in the Aura Cache Allotment.

Dwarf mistletoe infestations were identified during detailed cruising and reconnaissance surveys. Infestations were removed where possible by adjusting harvest block boundaries during active harvesting operations.

Range Management:

Range management plan for Devil's Head Allotment was completed.

Inventory of free-roaming horses was completed. Sites were noted that appear to be overgrazed as a direct result of horse use.

Range management activities are being monitored.

Prescribed burn in Devil's Head Allotment was not assessed.

Forage production data were collected from the allotments and grazing dispositions.

There was no activity on Resource Management Operational Plans within the Water Valley RMA due to other priorities.

Ecological Resources:

The use of Natural Areas was monitored by the volunteered stewards.

Water Valley RMA: one volunteer steward was appointed to Ole Buck Mountain Natural Area in 1991/92; two volunteer stewards were appointed to Wild Cat Island Natural Area.

Land Use Referrals:

There were six new applications for seismic programs in Water Valley RMA.

## Anticipated Activities (1992/93) Ghost River Sub-Regional IRP

### Wildlife:

Continue to monitor the Harold Creek Road sanctuary and assess its use and effectiveness.

Continue to search for nesting peregrines with assistance of local bird watchers.

Conduct prescribed burns as weather permits.

Transplanting elk from the Calgary area in the upper Burnt Timber drainage will occur when stocks become available.

### Fisheries:

Continue stocking of Margaret Lake.

Monitor the fishery of Stenton Lake through the creel survey program.

### Recreation:

Continue to provide information to the public at the information kiosk.

Increase public contacts in the backcountry using Forest Guardians staff.

The Campground Host Program will be expanded to include North Ghost, Waiparous, Fallen Timber and Burnt Timber.

Complete construction of the Eau Claire flood dam interpretive site accompanied with an illustrated history.

Restoration on Margaret Lake Trail will be completed.

A service node at the beginning of the Waiparous Creek Road and Harold Creek Road will be established. Garbage cans and signage will be installed for random camping activities.

A paramedic pilot project will be carried out on the May long weekend, which will involve volunteers.

Monitor and evaluate random camping sites.
User fees will be in place for all recreation areas May 14, 1992.

A development plan for Whispering Pine Meadow will be completed to expand the group camp facilities.

Waiparous Creek viewpoint will have a panoramic display board installed.

Grazing lessees will continue to be encouraged to implement the Use Respect program and allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users will be encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

### Access:

Monitor use levels and trends with respect to motorized recreational access.

Preliminary work will continue on the AMP.

A decision to officially begin the AMP will depend upon the success of the Castle River AMP.

Public access onto grazing dispositions in the Water Valley RMA will be encouraged through the Use Respect program.

Timber:

No sale reservations will be placed on the lands in the Water Valley RMA in 1992.

Begin review of completed draft RMOPs with grazing lessees depending on the availability of manpower.

PLPD on activities will continue contingent upon available funding.

The Devil's Head allotment will be assessed again in 1992/93 for the possibility of a re-burn.

The prescribed burn in the Aura Cache allotment may occur in 1992/93 depending on funding, manpower and the current burning conditions.

The dwarf mistletoe monitoring and eradication program will continue.

Range Management:

Begin review of completed draft RMOPs with grazing lessees to determine if expected results are being achieved.

Monitor completed range management plans to determine if expected results are being achieved.

Assess capability of range to maintain grazing levels.

Continue to inventory free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Continue data collection of forage productivity of allotments and grazing dispositions.

Ecological Resources:

Monitor the use of Natural Areas through the volunteer stewards.

Land Use Referrals:

Evaluations will be conducted to ensure reclamation conditions were followed for the six seismic programs shot in 1991/92 in the Water Valley RMA.

Reclamation:

New and existing dispositions will be monitored to ensure reclamation conditions are adequate and are being followed.

Reclamation projects will be completed as required and as budget permits.

## 4.3 Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved March 4, 1986)

### 1991/92 Activities:

Ecological, Natural and Cultural Resources:

Wetlands classification and distribution lists were completed.

The amphibian survey was not completed.

Wolf ecology project in Kananaskis Country was continued.

Bear monitoring in all recreation areas of Kananaskis Country is ongoing.

Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve was designated in December 1991.

The possible development of a cave research plan has been deferred to 92/93.

I.D. #5 continued to promote, coordinate, and carry out weed control activities within Kananaskis Country.

Fisheries:

Beaver pond evaluations to determine success of brook trout stocking, were not undertaken.

A first draft of the Allen Bill Pond creel survey report was completed.

Report on evaluation of the Spray Lakes stocking program was not completed.

A creel survey was conducted on Bear Pond and Big Iron Lake. The results were instrumental in having catch-and-release regulations established for these fisheries.

The nutrient enrichment report for Elbow Lake was not completed.

Electrofishing was conducted on Canyon Creek and results are being analyzed.

Annual inspections of all fish pond water control structures were undertaken and all were found to be in good repair.

No new fisheries habitat enhancement projects were undertaken in the planning area over the past year.

Creel survey cards from the high mountain lakes were collected and data are being evaluated.

The stocking program was resumed with the increased availability of fish in 1991/92.

A creel survey was conducted on Lower Kananaskis Lake to evaluate the winter fishery.

Meetings were held with TransAlta Utilities to discuss stabilizing water levels in Lower Kananaskis Lake, to minimize the impacts of drawdown on the fishery.

A consultant was hired to conduct a bull trout population study on Smith-Dorrien Creek.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

Visitor Services at the Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station and Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest were delivered by AFS staff, and resource materials were distributed to schools. Kananaskis Country staff delivered visitor interpretation, information/orientation and environmental education.

Range Resources:

Range management plans for Elbow, McLean and Fish Creek allotments were presented to permittees. Plan reviews are ongoing.

Forage production data from the Highwood assessment sites were collected.

Information for livestock management assessment was provided to Junior Forest Wardens.

Forage production information was collected in Jumpingpound and Deep Creek grazing allotments. The current range management plans are being amended based on this information.

Range management plans are being monitored. The Sullivan-Flat plan was amended.

Preliminary assessment of range to maintain specified grazing levels was completed. Current grazing levels are not being maintained. Current grazing is below the 1977 grazing level, and the ability of the range to sustain the reduced grazing level is diminishing.

Inventory of free-roaming horses was completed.

Recreation and Tourism:

Additional trail was completed in the Cataract snow vehicle zone.

Upgrades at West Bragg Trail system are ongoing.

Kovach pond liner was installed with assistance from Alberta Environment. Kovach Pond Day Use Site will open in 92/93.

Elbow River launch was completed.

Bear Pond reclamation work was completed.

Construction of a biathlon range at Mount Shark was approved.

The monitoring program of impacts of increasing public use on Picklejar Lakes continued.

The backcountry management program occurred with Forest Guardians patrolling the backcountry, meeting users and discussing issues.

Reviews were conducted of private tourism development proposals under the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing process for:

- Kan-Alta Golf Management's golf course proposal on Evan-Thomas Creek;
- Fortress Mountain's development of chalet-style rental accommodation;
- Rudi Schmidt's resort proposal in the South Spray Lakes area; and
- Kananaskis Pathways Helicopter and Snocat Skiing/Tour Boat O ration in the Spray Lakes area.

A lease was issued and development began on the Tipi Campground by Sundance Lodges near the Beaver Pond Day Use Area.

Timber:

B7-L4 - Logging completed - disposition was renewed to April 30, 1992 for cleanup purpose only.

B7-L6 - Logging occurred in 1991/92.

The monitoring program for mountain pine beetle continued.

Wildlife:

Brush pile burning at Wind Creek was put on hold pending decisions on development proposals in the area.

Burns were not undertaken at Mist Creek or Sheep River; however, discussions on a burn and follow-up monitoring at Sheep River are ongoing.

The lack of snow this past winter prevented the completion of an aerial survey in the Highwood. New hunting regulations are being established to improve bull/cow ratios in order to increase productivity.

Assisted with tagging of lambs and blood sampling in the Sheep River sanctuary. Studies with the University of Sherbrooke and Craighead Wildlife Institute are ongoing.

Monitoring continued on Bow Corridor elk movements. Volunteer assistance was required to enable work to proceed. Only 5 collared elk of the original 12 are still alive. Little new data are being collected due to small sample size. Based on the collared sample amount, the mortality rate of these elk appears to be very high.

The Highwood Road Corridor Sanctuary has been monitored through regular Fish and Wildlife patrols. Observations suggest that most people are respecting the sanctuary and few illegal kills are occurring.

Transportation:

Gates were installed and emergency procedures established between agencies (i.e., RCMP, Trans-Alta, Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Transportation and Utilities, and Tourism, Parks and Recreation).

Reclamation:

In conjunction with Alberta Environment, reclamation was completed on the Gypsum Mine Road in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and six other sites.

**Anticipated Activities (1992/93) Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional IRP**

Ecological, Natural and Cultural Resources:

Complete the management plan for Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve.

The possible development of a cave research plan will be considered in 92/93.

Weed management is ongoing.

Complete amphibian survey.

Continue monitoring wolves and bears in Kananaskis West District.

Initiate the vegetation management plan for PLPP.

Participate in the Central Rockies Ecosystem Interagency Liaison Group.

Implement new Kananaskis Country Bear Management Plan.

Fisheries:

Evaluate brook trout populations in selected beaver ponds that were stocked in 1988.

Complete the report on the 1987 creel survey on Allen Bill Pond.

Complete a report on evaluation of the Spray Lakes stocking program.

Continue with ongoing creel survey programs on Bear Pond and Big Iron Lake.

Complete a report on nutrient enrichment for Elbow Lake.

Continue annual inspections and maintenance of fish pond water control structures.

Undertake new fisheries habitat enhancement projects as identified in the planning area.

Continue to collect creel survey data on high mountain lakes.

Resume the stocking program for various lakes and beaver ponds, as fish availability from the hatcheries increases.

Conduct additional discussions with TransAlta Utilities on water level management on Lower Kananaskis Lake.

Conduct a summer creel survey on Lower Kananaskis Lake.

Conduct a fish population inventory of the Kananaskis River to obtain baseline information.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

Maintain or increase level of visitor services at the Colonel's Cabin Forest Management Interpretive Trail as funding permits.

Provide opportunities for school use of Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station as funding permits.

Continue operation and maintenance of the Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest. Provide resource kits that have been developed for school teachers for use as an aid to teaching about natural resources.

Continue programs dealing with forestry education and conservation awareness, which are delivered by Alberta Forest Service staff.

Continue programs presented at campgrounds, visitor centres and other facilities. Provide a variety of printed environmental education resource materials to school systems.

Range Resources:

Finalize range management plans for Elbow, McLean and Fish Creek allotments.

Continue the range monitoring program in the Highwood area.

Continue monitoring forage production in the Jumpingpound and Deep Creek allotments.

Monitor completed range management plans to determine if expected results are being achieved.

Assess capability of range to maintain grazing levels.

Continue to inventory free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Maintain range improvements where necessary.

Examine possibilities of improving livestock use of secondary range.

Revise range management plan for the Jumpingpound Allotment.

Recreation and Tourism:

Continue upgrades of West Bragg ski trails.

Add 2 km of snowmobile trail and 10 km of summer trail in Sibbald area as a result of access developed through timber harvesting operations.

Add a new 5 km recreational ski trail at Canmore Nordic Centre.

Install bank protection at Bow River Campground.

At Picklejar Lakes, continue erosion control work on Lantern Creek Trail as manpower permits. Install backcountry camping standard signs along trails. Forest Guardians to continue gathering data on backcountry use and impacts. Data to be used for establishing carrying capacities.

Funding of approved Community Tourism Action Program (CTAP) projects through Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation as recommended by the local Tourism Action Committee.

Continue to monitor existing CTRL applications and maintain information and referral procedures as outlined by the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing process, to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Timber:

Harvesting will continue in B7-L6.

Interpretive signs to explain the proposed reforestation and reclamation activities have been ordered for B7-L4 and B7-L6. They should be in place by June 15, 1992.

Timber cruising is scheduled for July 1992 in cut plan #2. (Spray Lakes quota area is under cruise order #B7-3430 to support their quota.)

Two competitive commercial timber permits will be set up for sale in the fall of 1992 in the Sullivan Creek and Etherington Creek area for approximately 8 500 $m^3$ each.

The monitoring program for Mountain Pine Beetle will continue.

Wildlife:

Brush pile burning in Wind Valley will be postponed until area development issues are finalized.

Complete burn on the lower portion of Mist Creek to enhance elk range.

Complete prescribed burn on Sheep River to enhance sheep habitat.

Continue assistance to University of Sherbrooke and Craighead Wildlife Institute in the bighorn sheep study in the Sheep River area.

Transplant mountain goats into the Picklejar Lakes area.

Continue monitoring the Highwood elk population.

Implement new hunting regulations to improve sex ratios of Highwood elk populations.

Initiate ungulate monitoring program in PLPP.

Monitor eagle nesting in Spray Valley.

Transportation:

Participate in an active reporting role with the Alberta Avalanche Association. This is a provincial public awareness network for information on snow stability levels in Kananaskis Country.

Reclamation:

No projects are contemplated for 1992/93 on lands managed by AFS.

Reclamation of up to 10 disturbed sites is proposed jointly by Tourism, Parks and Recreation and Alberta Environment.

TransAlta will do Phase 1 of two year landscaping program around Spray Reservoir.

Plan Assessment:

A five-year assessment of the plan will be undertaken this year to evaluate whether the plan is current and still providing clear direction on management of resources, or whether it requires a major review and updating. Should you have input, comments are welcome. Please contact the Regional Resource Coordinator, whose address and phone number are given at the end of the report.

## 4.4 Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved March 4, 1986)

### 1991/92 Activities:

### Wildlife:

Elk surveys were cancelled due to mild weather conditions and lack of snow.

Alberta Bird Atlas surveys were completed.

The Blackstone Wapiabi burn was completed in the fall of 1991.

Unfavorable weather conditions prevented completion of the South Ram Headwaters burn.

Brush pile removal on Ribbon Flats was postponed due to high moisture levels in the materials.

Forty Mile/Lost Guide Flats range enhancement project was not undertaken.

The Bighorn Creek winter burn was prepared but had to be postponed due to lack of suitable chinook wind conditions.

### Fisheries:

The following stocking program was completed:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brown trout | - | Yellowhead Lake | 12 400 |
| | - | Phyllis Lake | 11 000 |
| | - | Birch Lake | 15 000 |
| Brook trout | - | Dormer Lake | 1 000 |
| | - | Peppers Lake | 14 000 |
| Rainbow trout | - | Harlech Pond | 500 |
| | - | Nordegg Ponds | 700 |
| | - | Elk Creek Pond | 500 |
| | - | Alford Lake | 3 000 |
| | - | Goldeye Lake | 10 000 |
| | - | Fish Lake | 15 000 |
| Cutthroat trout | - | Job Lake | 10 000 |
| | - | Entry Lake | 500 |
| | - | Bighorn River | 10 000 |
| Walleye | - | Burnstick Lake | 15 000 |

Assessment of brook trout at Gap Lake was not undertaken due to helicopter budget limitations.

The Bighorn River was assessed in 1991, but no evidence of natural reproduction by cutthroat trout was found. The number of fish remaining from initial stocking was too low to provide a fishery. Evidence of natural reproduction was found in Sunkay Creek, a tributary of the Bighorn River.

Natural reproduction at Job Lake appears to be marginal. However, the population appears to be slowly recovering after closing the lake to angling. Supplemental stocking in 1989, '90 and '91 should result in a substantial increase in the trout population.

Cutthroat trout in Onion and Canary creeks were monitored to assess the effectiveness of size limit regulations. It appears the size limit may be too low since most fish above 25 cm are apparently being removed by anglers.

Bull trout plantings at Lake of the Falls were assessed and determined to have been successful. No other sites were evaluated this year.

The North Ram Cutthroat population was assessed. The catch and release regulations have resulted in restoration of an excellent cutthroat population in the stream.

Fisheries habitat improvement at Job and Pinto lakes was assessed. At Job Lake, the natural silt problem is still restricting natural reproduction. At Pinto Lake, the cover units installed in the outlet are functioning well and are being used by adult and juvenile bull trout.

Recreation:

Work on draft plans for hiking/equestrian staging areas for Landslide and Pinto lakes was not carried out due to manpower constraints and other priorities.

Development of a formal trail staging area was not completed for Allstones Lake. Instead, manpower and resources were allocated to the development of Crescent Falls Recreation Area. Staging area and campground facilities have been completed at Crescent Falls and will be open for use in 1992.

Periodic backcountry patrols were undertaken throughout the mountainous portion of the forest from July to November 1991. As well, a full-time backcountry Forest Guardian was hired to patrol backcountry areas in the Clearwater Ranger District and South Nordegg Districts.

A biophysical inventory and land use evaluations have been completed for the Nordegg/Goldeye Shunda development node (as identified in the David Thompson Corridor Local IRP).

The rough draft plan for the Eagle Creek campground has been completed.

The Red Deer River Corridor Recreation Management Plan has commenced and should be completed by the fall of 1992.

Tourism:

Information requirements and referral procedures were maintained as outlined by the CTRL process to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and use of other resources.

Grazing lessees were encouraged to implement the Use Respect program and to allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users were encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

Ecological and Historical Resources:

No new Natural Areas were designated by Order in Council (Calgary District).

The Bentz Lake Natural Area (SE 1-33-7-W5) remains under a protective notation (PNT).

Two volunteer stewards have been approved for the Bentz Lake Natural Area.

LSDs 11 & 12 of 22 and NE 22-33-6-W5 were field evaluated for a Natural Area and remain under a Consultative Notation (CNT).

Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve Management Plan was not started.

No Natural Areas management plans were started.

A schedule was developed for Natural Area biophysical inventories and plans; this work is subject to other priorities.

Timber:

Negotiations were ongoing throughout the year for the Sunpine FMA.

Erosion hazard maps were completed.

Monitoring for insect and diseases infestations is ongoing. Studies and surveys of needle cast infestations will be increased.

Burnstick Lookout will not be relocated due to budget restrictions. It will continue to be operated at its present location, at least on a temporary basis, for the foreseeable future.

Range and Agricultural Resources:

Resource Management Operational Plans have been completed and implemented for 12 grazing dispositions in the White Area portion of RMA C (Calgary District) in 1991-92. (A total of 29 have been completed and implemented to date.)

Six range improvement programs were approved. These programs covered regrowth control, culvert installation and trail clearing.

The inventory of free-roaming horses was completed. Forage use is excessive in some locations and there appears to be damage to reforestation efforts due to horse grazing.

Preliminary assessment of range to maintain specified grazing levels is completed. Levels of grazing are not being maintained. The current grazing is below the 1977 grazing level, and the ability of the range to sustain the reduced grazing level is diminishing.

The inventory was completed and draft range management plans were developed and reviewed with the lessees for the following: GRL 38258 and GRL 38036 in RMA D.

Access:

As no industrial activities occurred in RMA L, an industrial access management plan was not initiated or required.

Recreational users of public land were requested to seek the grazing lessee's permission before entering land under grazing lease. Grazing lessees were encouraged to allow the public foot access to grazing leases, and to restrict motorized vehicle access to selected roads or trails.

## Anticipated Activities (1992/93) Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional IRP

### Wildlife:

Mountain goats will be captured from the Cline Creek area for relocation to southern Alberta.

Elk population surveys are rescheduled for the winter of 92/93.

Sheep surveys will be conducted north of the North Saskatchewan River.

The South Ram Headwaters burn is planned for the fall of 1992.

### Fisheries:

Continue to monitor the Job Lake cutthroat population.

Conduct an assessment of the bull trout populations in Pinto Lake.

Continue evaluation of effectiveness of size limit regulations on cutthroat on Onion and Canary creeks.

Conduct a bull trout study on the Upper Clearwater.

Repair work on Elk Creek Pond is planned, in order to correct outlet erosion.

The following fish stocking program is planned:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brown trout | Phyllis Lake | 11 000 |
| Brook trout | Peppers Lake | 14 000 |
| | Gap Lake | 5 000 |
| Rainbow trout | Nordegg Pond | 700 |
| | Elk Creek Pond | 500 |
| | Alford Lake | 3 000 |
| | Tay Lake | 5 000 |
| | Goldeye Lake | 10 000 |
| | Fish Lake | 43 000 |
| Cutthroat trout | Bighorn River | 10 000 |
| | Eagle Lake | 7 500 |
| | Falls Creek | 6 000 |
| | Panther River | 10 000 |
| | Ice Lake | 500 |
| | Landslide Lake | 13 000 |
| | Lost Guide Lake | 12 000 |
| Walleye | Burnstick Lake | 23 000 |

Recreation Areas:

Complete the recreation plan and design for Eagle Creek.

Review the Red Deer River recreation area group facility for a possible upgrade.

Begin development of draft plans for hiking/equestrian staging areas for Landslide Lake and Pinto Lake.

Development of a formal trail staging area will be completed for Allstones Lake.

Development of staging areas at the Wapiabi and Blackstone Gaps will not occur until staging areas are completed in the Highway #11 corridor.

Continue to monitor visitor use levels in developed recreation areas and at random sites.

Continue periodic backcountry patrols. Increase backcountry patrols in the Panther and Ya Ha Tinda area. Begin gathering data on human and horse use in the Panther Corners/Upper Clearwater area in anticipation of starting a backcountry management plan in 1993/94.

Conduct a biophysical inventory and land use evaluations for Alexo/Saunders and Bighorn Canyon Development Nodes (as identified in the David Thompson Corridor Local IRP).

Tourism:

Funding of approved Community Tourism Action Program (CTAP) projects through Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation as recommended by the local Tourism Action Committee.

Maintain information requirements and referral procedures, as outlined by the CTRL process, to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Encourage grazing lessees to implement the Use Respect program and allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users will be encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

The Upper Red Deer River Corridor Recreation Management Plan will be implemented.

Ecological and Historical Resources:

If workloads permit, begin development of a management plan for the Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve.

Prepare management plans for Natural Areas (e.g., Scalp Creek), subject to provincial priorities and as time permits.

Further evaluation of LSD 11 & 12 of 22 and NE 22-33-6-W5 under CNT for potential Natural Area status, is anticipated.

Biophysical inventories are scheduled for Clearwater and Scalp Creek Natural Areas. Boundary reviews will be completed for North Ram/Nice Creek and Clearwater Natural Areas.

An Order in Council will be issued for Benz Lake this year.

Timber:

Monitor for insects and disease (including spruce budworm along Red Deer River), and establish sample plots/complete juvenile stem count to monitor pine needle cast infestations.

Finalize decision regarding relocation of the Burnstick Lookout Tower.

A forest management plan will be developed in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Division if RMA L is considered for harvesting.

Continue negotiations with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. towards finalizing their forest management agreement.

Range and Agricultural Resources:

Resource management operational plans will be completed and implemented for the remaining grazing dispositions in the White Area portion of RMA C (Calgary district).

Continue to inventory free-roaming horses and assess forage use.

Assess range ability to maintain specified grazing levels.

Prepare draft range management plans for Coal Camp Creek, Lower Red Deer and Williams Creek allotments.

Assess forage production capabilities on range improvements and in the Panther Corners and Upper Clearwater Forest Land Use Zones.

Range management plans will be initiated for GRL 38090, GRL 39369 and GRP 787977. RMP for Fall Creek Allotment to be finalized.

Access:

An industrial access management plan will be required in RMA L should one or more operators become active in the area.

Applications for access development will be reviewed through the department referral process to minimize the impacts on other resources.

Recreational users of public land will be encouraged to seek the grazing lessee's permission before entering land under grazing lease. Grazing lessees will be encouraged to allow the public foot access to grazing leases, and to restrict motorized vehicle access to selected roads or trails.

Reclamation of Access:

Assess the requirement for reclamation of access routes in the White Area (Calgary District) portion of RMA C as lessees holding access dispositions request cancellation. Transfer of those access routes to private individuals or the local authority will be completed where the access is required by landowners to enter private land or land under disposition.

## Plan Assessment:

A five-year assessment of the plan will be undertaken this year to evaluate whether the plan is current and still providing clear direction on management of resources, or whether it requires a major review and updating. Should you have input, comments are welcome. Please contact the Regional Resource Coordinator, whose address and phone number are given at the end of the report.

## 4.5 Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan (Approved November 18, 1986)

### 1991/92 Activities:

Wildlife:

The survey planned for WMU 324 (RMA B) was shifted to WMU 330 because of better survey conditions in that area.

Deer and elk depredation problems were addressed before Christmas. The mild weather in late winter reduced many of the earlier problems.

No wildlife habitat enhancement projects were undertaken in this unit over the past year.

Fisheries:

Evaluation of the spawning reef at Swan Lake has shown the project was a success, which will help enhance lake trout reproduction in the lake. Fry traps set in March 1992 showed a successful emergence of lake trout fry. A creel survey was conducted and showed that more small lake trout are starting to appear in the harvest. This indicates the population is experiencing increased recruitment.

Suckers were successfully removed from Twin Lake. This will result in an improvement of the rainbow trout fishery.

Lakes designated for stocking in 1991/92 were stocked as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rainbow trout | - | Struble Lake | 19 000 |
| | - | Harlech Pond | 500 |
| | - | Unnamed (30-42-4-W5) | 200 |
| Brown trout | - | Grace Creek Dams | 3 000 |

The Baptiste River assessment was postponed due to manpower and budgetary limitations.

Streambank fences were all maintained.

The fencing project on Vetch Creek did not proceed due to a revision in management plans for grazing in this area.

The preliminary work for Cow Lake stabilization was completed, but funding for construction was not available.

Recreation:

Construction of the Rose Creek cross-country ski staging area and 16 km of ski trials were completed and open for public use.

Forage Resource:

The Rocky Mountain House Provincial Grazing Reserve was operated at full capacity. A total of 7701 animal unit months (AUMs) were used by 58 patrons in 1991. The death losses were .58 percent.

Forage production data were collected on GRL 38145, GRL 39798, GRL 37812, GRL 39926 and GRL 39735.

No Canada thistle control projects were carried out on GRL 810575 or GRL 40547.

Range management plans were completed and implemented on GRL 34501, GRL 40286, GRL 800698, GRL 40502, GRL 40272, GRL 780044, and GRL 36488. Range management plans were not completed and implemented on GRL 40750 and GRL 38690.

For the Rose Creek-Red Deer River RMA (GRL 36486 and GRL 37749), both dispositions were inventoried in 1991, and draft range management plans are in place.

For the North Saskatchewan RMA (GRL 37902, GRL 810778, GRL 810777, GRL 38240, and FGL 890009), all dispositions were inventoried in 1991, and draft range management plans are in place.

For the Prairie Creek RMA, GRL 39488 was inventoried in 1991, and a draft range management plan is in place.

For the Nordegg-Baptise RMA, Range inventory of Holbrook Allotment was conducted. A review of the allotment was undertaken and grazing in the allotment has been suspended.

Agricultural Resource:

The S½ & NE 21-47-7-W5 were sold by public auction. A farm development sale was issued on the individual parcels.

Farm development leases (with option to purchase) were issued from a public tender on the following Rose Creek lands, E½ 1-47-8-W5, Pt. E½ 24, E½ 36 & NW 36-46-8-W5.

Tourism:

Information and referral procedures were maintained, as outlined by the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing process, to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Grazing lessees were encouraged to implement the Use Respect program and to allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users were encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

Ecological Resources:

A volunteer steward was approved on the Mill Island Natural Area #299.

Land Use Administration:

The abandoned Canadian National Railway (CNR) has been revested to the Province of Alberta.

## Anticipated Activities (1992/93) Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional IRP

### Wildlife:

A moose survey is scheduled for WMU 332.

Wildlife depredation problems will be resolved as required.

An evaluation of Fish and Game Club moose browse enhancement projects is planned.

### Fisheries:

Continue with a creel survey at Swan Lake.

Stocking programs will include:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rainbow trout | Struble Lake | 19 000 |
| | Harlech Pond | 400 |
| | Rocky Children's Pond | 500 |
| | Twin Lakes | 5 000 |
| Brown trout | Rocky Beaver Dams | 15 000 |
| | Unnamed (30-42-5-W5) | 200 |
| Brook trout | Rat Lake | 4 000 |

The Cow Lake stabilization project may proceed during the winter of 1992/93 if funding is available.

### Recreation:

An additional 18 km of trail and a new warm-up shelter will be constructed at the Rose Creek cross-country ski area.

Develop a hiking trail at Medicine Lake pending manpower and funding availability.

### Forage Resource:

The following dispositions will be reviewed (range inventory) and range management plans developed by June 1994: Rose Creek-Red Deer River RMA - GRL 37238, FGL 860017 and GRP 787976.

The following will be reviewed (range inventory) and an RMP developed by June 1994: North Saskatchewan RMA - Phoenix Horse Allotment; and Rough Creek Allotment - GRL 38175 and GRP 787429.

Range Management Plan for Omni HTP to be finalized.

Maintain the present level of stocking in the Rocky Mountain House Provincial Grazing Reserve and keep the livestock mortality rate below 1 percent.

Monitor forage production on GRL 38007, GRL 38185, GRL 36177 and GRL 910059 by using production cage structures.

Conduct Canada thistle control projects on GRL 36177.

Continue to evaluate vacant public land for grazing disposition suitability.

Conduct a vegetation inventory on FGL 900021 to monitor species change over the next several years.

Tourism:

Funding of approved Community Tourism Action Program (CTAP) projects through Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation as recommended by the local Tourism Action Committee.

Maintain information and referral procedures, as outlined by the Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing process, to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the intent of the IRP and other resource uses.

Encourage grazing lessees to implement the Use Respect program and allow extensive recreational use of grazing leases by the public. Recreational users will be encouraged to cooperate with the grazing disposition holders through the Use Respect program.

Ecological Resources:

The use of Natural Areas within this planning area will continue to be monitored through the volunteer stewardship program.

Aurora Natural Area Management Plan will be drafted.

Land Use Administration:

Complete necessary reclamation on the abandoned CNR rights-of-way. The abandoned rights-of-way not required for transportation or utility corridor, will be offered for sale (as per current policy) to adjacent land owners to be incorporated into their existing land titles. The portions of the land adjacent to public land will be managed the same as this adjacent public land.

Plan Assessment:

A five-year assessment of the plan will be undertaken this year to evaluate whether the plan is current and still providing clear direction on management of resources, or whether it requires a major review and updating. Should you have input, comments are welcome. Please contact the Regional Resource Coordinator, whose address and phone number are given at the end of the report.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

The preceding information is intended to provide an account of what has been accomplished in the Brazeau-Pembina, Ghost River, Kananaskis Country, Nordegg-Red Deer River and Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Planning Areas between April 1991 and March 1992.

If you have any comments relating to this report, or if you require more detailed information on specific programs undertaken in the areas mentioned, please direct them to:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
P.O. Box 1598
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
Rocky Mountain House, AB.
T0M 1T0

The courier address to be used to forward comments from provincial government departments is:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
Courier Box 23
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
Rocky Mountain House, AB.
T0M 1T0

or call:
(403) 845-8245 and ask to discuss the Annual Report.

**Figure 2.** **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AMP | - | Access Management Plan |
| CNR | - | Canadian National Railway |
| CNT | - | Consultative Notation |
| CTAP | - | Community Tourism Action Program |
| CTRL | - | Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing |
| FGL | - | Forest Grazing Lease |
| GRL | - | Grazing Lease |
| HTP | - | Head Tax Permit |
| IRP | - | Integrated Resource Plan |
| RMA | - | Resource Management Area |
| PLPD | - | Public Lands Development Program |
| RMOP | - | Resource Management Operational Plans |
| PNT | - | Protective Notation |
| PLPP | - | Peter Lougheed Provincial Park |
| RMP | - | Range Management Plan |